

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Of those, claims 1, 9 and 10 are independent.

By this reply, claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error in the spelling of the word "means." It should be readily apparent that this does not represent an amendment made in order to distinguish the applied art.

DRAWING CHANGE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

In a Drawing Change Authorization Request letter submitted with the response, Applicants have added the legend "back" to Fig. 6, in keeping with the description in the specification. Approval of this drawing change is requested.

§ 102 REJECTION: COLEMAN PATENT

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3-8 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,859,638 to Coleman et al. (the Coleman patent). Applicants traverse.

Independent claims 1 and 10 recite, in part, the aspect of storing a template sentence containing a series of words in word fields. It is to be noted that plural word fields are recited, not a singular word field.

The Coleman patent is directed toward a help system implemented as a user interface that uses a type of template sentence. The particular type of sentence used by the Coleman patent is: "How Do I [word field]?" This type of template sentence uses only one word field. It can be described as a one-dimensional template sentence.

Figure 5 of the Coleman patent also depicts the word set that corresponds to the one-dimensional template sentence. The word set begins with the word unit "find a file or folder" finishes with the word unit "prepare a disk for use."

The one-dimensional template sentence of the Coleman patent is nothing more than a pull-down menu. The phrase "How Do I ...?" is a command option similar to the command options "File," "Edit," "Views," "Label" and "Special" in the menu bar 100. As such, the phrase "How Do I...?" could be added as a command option next to the command option "Special".

Accordingly, a distinction of claims 1 and 10 over the Coleman patent is the aspect of storing word fields. Again, the Coleman patent discloses only a one-dimensional template sentence, i.e., having only a single word field.

Claims 3-8 and 11 depend at least indirectly from claims 1 and 10, respectively, and are patentable at least for the same reasons.

§ 102 REJECTION: SANCHEZ PATENT

Beginning on page 6 of the Office Action, claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Document EP 745 929 to Sanchez et al. (the Sanchez reference). Applicants traverse.

The Sanchez reference is directed to an adaptive graphical user-interface for a network peripheral. Inspection of Figure 5 reveals that media source region 82 includes pull-down menus for the command options "first page," "all page" and "last page." To the extent that a pull-down menu is an equivalent to a one-dimensional template sentence, Applicants are willing to assume for the sake of

argument that the Sanchez reference discloses at most the use of a one-dimensional template sentence. Again, a one-dimensional template sentence uses only one word field.

Nowhere does the Sanchez reference disclose the use of a template sentence having plural word fields. Thus, a distinction over the Sanchez patent of independent claim 9 is a first memory for storing a template sentence containing word fields.

In view of the discussion above, the § 102 rejection of claim 9 over the Sanchez reference is improper and Applicants request that it be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION: COLEMAN PATENT + MICAL PATENT

Beginning on page 8 of the Office Action, claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Coleman patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,772,882 to Mical (the Mical patent). Applicants traverse.

Claims 2-3 depend at least indirectly from independent claim 1. A distinction over the Coleman patent of claim 1 was argued above. By dependency, claims 2-3 inherit this distinction over the Coleman patent.

The Mical patent merely discloses a pull-down menu system for permitting a user to select an item on a menu of choices. The header block 40 of Figure 4 of the Mical patent corresponds to the menu bar 100 of Figure 5 (see also Fig. 2) of the Coleman patent. Each of the sub-areas A-D of the header block 40 of the Mical patent correspond to the command options "File," "Edit," "View," ... of the menu bar 100 of the Coleman patent.

As explained above, the "How Do I space ...?" type of one-dimensional template sentence of the Coleman patent (see Fig. 5) is actually another example of a command option that could be displayed within the menu bar 100. It is also to be recalled that the word set in Fig. 5 corresponding to the one-dimensional template sentence begins with the word unit "find a file or folder" and ends with the word unit "prepare a disk for use". The word set of the Coleman patent corresponds to the menu block 42 of Figure 4 of the Mical patent, where B0, B1, B2 and B3 represent the word units. It so happens that the word unit B2 of Figure 4 of the Mical patent has two word sub-units, referred to as sub-menu blocks 44 in the vocabulary of the Mical patent.

Applicants assume for the sake of argument that a pull-down menu system is equivalent to a one-dimensional template sentence. The Mical patent discloses only a pull-down menu system. Hence, the Mical patent only discloses a one-dimensional template sentence.

A distinction over the Mical patent of claim 2 (inherited from claim 1) is the aspect of storing a template sentence containing word fields. In other words, i.e., the distinction over the Coleman patent also represents a distinction over the Mical patent.

In view of the above discussion, the § 103(a) rejection of claims 2-3 over the combination of the Coleman and Mical patents is improper and Applicants request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION



The issues in the case are considered to be resolved. Accordingly, Applicants again request a Notice of Allowability.

PERSON TO CONTACT

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

ONE-MONTH EXTENSION

Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

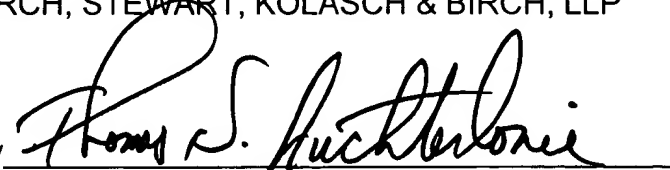
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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TSA:sld

Attachment: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made



VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) The operator control unit according to claim 1, wherein said generator[e] means [menas] depicts the template sentence along a first axis and said word sets along second axis extending perpendicularly to the first axis and intersecting the template sentence at the corresponding word fields, respectively.